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Report of the Registration Committee to the Council of the Statistical Society, 5th June, 1847.

THE Scottish Registration Committee appointed by the Council on the 13th March, 1847, "to consider certain Schedules and Provisions of the proposed Registration Bill for Scotland, to recommend Forms, and to communicate with the proper Authority on the subject;" beg to report, that the Committee, at their meeting on the 16th March, 1847, on examining the proposed Registration Bill, found the Schedules defective in the following particulars, viz.:

In Marriage Schedule—

1. The usual and present residence of the parties omitted.
2. Their ages not given; the parties being inadequately distinguished as "Minors," and of "Full Age."
3. The professions of the parties are omitted, while those of their parents are given instead.
4. "Civil Condition" given, but it would be worth while, in the case of widows and widowers, to know when the parties became such, and how often.
5. The number of children of each party by former marriage not obtained.
6. The place of birth of the parties marrying not stated.
7. The father's name only given, whereas the names of both parents should be furnished.

In Births' Schedule—

1. The items to determine child's identity, inadequate.
2. The birth-place of the parents omitted.
3. The marriage-place of the parents not given.
4. The number and sex of former children omitted.
5. The signatures of the parents from the Register Book should be required.
6. The certificate of the accoucheur, nurse, or persons present is omitted.
7. The place of registry omitted from the entry.

In Deaths' Schedule—

1. The arrangement of the name and description incomplete.
2. A certificate signed by the medical attendant should be required, stating the cause of death, and when the party was last seen by him.
3. The burial place and undertaker's name are omitted.
4. Place of birth and time of residence in the district omitted.
5. The rank or profession, and names of the parents omitted.
6. No statement as to whether married, to whom, at what age, or where.
7. Issue of the marriage living and dead, and the name and age of each should be furnished.
8. The signature of a witness, as well as of the informant, is wanting.

To remedy the defects now pointed out in the Schedules printed with the proposed Bill, the Committee suggested the substitution of the following three forms of Schedules A, B, and C:—

In order to determine whether any practical difficulties might be found in eliciting for registration the various facts required in those forms, the Committee caused an experiment to be made in several districts of the metropolis, and it was found that all the information needed could be readily obtained from the public, no objection arising on furnishing it. The results of this attempt at practically working out the Schedules were submitted to the Committee, and considered as satisfactory evidence that no insuperable difficulties existed in the way of carrying out the plan on a national scale. Copies of the three Schedules referred to were forwarded to Sir George Grey and the Lord Advocate of Scotland, and subsequently a deputation from the Committee waited on the Lord Advocate, and explained that the object which the Council had in view was simply to assist in securing for Scotland such a form of registration as the present advanced state of statistical science seemed to demand; and believing that a more complete and useful form of registry than that required under the proposed Bill might without difficulty be carried out, the Council of the Statistical Society was anxious that the people of Scotland should possess that system of registration which was best calculated to exhibit their true social and civil condition.

The attention of the Lord Advocate was next directed to the defects in the Schedules of the Bill then passing through the House, and the advantages which it is believed would arise from the adoption of the proposed Schedules A. B. and C. were pointed out. Throughout the interview the Lord Advocate entered most fully and minutely into the arguments brought forward by the deputation, and promised to give the whole subject his particular consideration, although he could not engage to adopt all the suggested alterations; and he further expressed it as his opinion, that the better plan would be to pass the present Bills with but little alteration in the Schedules, and to introduce such provisions as would enable the competent authorities, with the sanction of the Queen in Council, to make such alterations and improvements in the modes of registration as experience may show to be necessary and expedient.

Subsequently to this interview, it was considered advisable to forward Schedules, on the model of those suggested, for use to some district of Scotland, in order to discover whether any difficulty was likely to arise in that part of the kingdom, with respect to the peculiar form of registration suggested. Dr. Watt, of Glasgow, who has had great experience in such matters, kindly undertook to practically test the Schedules in that city, and the Committee, at its meeting on the 15th ultimo, was furnished with the results obtained by Dr. Watt, consisting of a number of Registrations of the "Private Burials in the Cathedral burying-grounds," of "Poor buried at the public expense," and of "Burials by the Royal Infirmary of Glasgow." The following extract from a letter of Dr. Watt, will show that he considers no difficulties exist in the way of getting the Schedules filled up:—

"As Mr. Farr did not state the time at which he wished the enlosed schedules returned to him, I have delayed making the returns till they could be filled up for a complete month. I regret, however, that some little delay has taken place in obtaining the returns fot the poor buried at the public expense, and from the Royal Infirmary. These schedules have been filled up by the parties who make the returns for

SCHEDULE A.—

COUNTY—Middlesex. DISTRICT—Marylebone.

No.	When, where, and how, Married.	Signatures of the Parties.	Residence. Present.	Residence. Usual.	Age.	Rank or Profession.
11	On March third, 1847. At Marylebone Parish Church. Marriage, after Banns, was solemnized between us according to the Rites and Ceremonies of the Established Church.	William Hastings	3, South St., Marylebone	Chelmsford, Essex	32	Carpenter
		Sophia Ann Mitchell	17, High St., Marylebone	17, High St., Marylebone	20	Dressmaker

SCHEDULE B.—

COUNTY—Middlesex. DISTRICT—St. Pancras. SUB-DISTRICT—

No.	Child. Name, and whether present or not.	Child. Sex.	Child. When Born. Year. Day. Hour.	Child. Where Born. If in Lodgings—so stated.	Parents. Father. Name. Rank or Profession. Age. Birth-place.	Parents. Father. When and where Married. Issue Living and Deceased.
98	William Jones (Present.) Alteration of name, if any, and date thereof.	M.	1847. February Eleventh. 5^h 30^m A.M.	169, Tottenham Court Road.	Henry Jones, Corn Dealer, 40, Tingewick, Bucks.	1830, St. Pancras. 4 boys, 4 girls, living. 1 girl dec.

SCHEDULE C.—

COUNTY—Middlesex. DISTRICT—Poplar. SUB-DISTRICT—

No.	Description. (1) Name; (2) Rank or Profession.	Description. Sex.	Description. Age.	Description. (1) When and (2) Where Died. No. of Street; Year, Day, Hour.	(1) Cause of Death. Disease; (2) Medical Attendant by whom Certified; when he last saw Deceased.	(1) Burial Place. (2) Undertaker by whom Certified.
1476	William Canty, Dock Labourer.	M.	62	1847. February Twenty-eighth. $6\frac{1}{2}^h$ A.M. At 16, Cottage Row.	Pneumonia, 2 months. As certified by H. Bloomfield, M.D., who saw deceased Feb. 27th.	Catholic Burial Ground, Wade Street. As certified by M. Rutley, Undertaker.

MARRIAGES.

1847. MARRIAGES Solemnized at the Parish Church in the Parish of Marylebone.

Condition.			Birth-place.	Parents.		Witnesses and Officiating Minister.
If a Widower or Widow. Date of decease of former Wives or Husbands.	Children by each former Marriage.			Names.	Rank or Profession.	
	Living.	Dead.				
Widower, 4 Nov., 1840	2	1	Bristol	Peter Hastings, dec. and Ann Hastings, m. n. Payne	Upholsterer Schoolmistress	John Hastings, Jane Mitchell, Witnesses.
Spinster			Longbridge, Deverell, Wilts	Geoffry Mitchell and Sarah Mitchell, m. n. Evans, dec.	Butcher	James Hollingshead, Vicar, Officiating Minister

BIRTHS.

Tottenham Court. BIRTHS Registered by John Wells, Registrar.

Mother. Name; Maiden Name; Rank or Profession; Age; Birthplace.	Informants. Signatures of Father and Mother and other Informants, and Residence if out of the house in which the birth occurred.	Witnesses. Accoucheur, Nurse by whom certified; and Signatures of Occupier or other Witnesses.	When, where, and by whom Registered.
Harriet Jones, maiden name Hills, (her 9th child,) 37, St. Pancras.	Henry Jones, Father Harriet Jones, Mother	Eupham. Curry, Nurse, Witness. Certified by M. Clayton, Accoucheur.	1847. March 10th, at 169, Tottenham Court Road. John Wells, Registrar.

DEATHS.

Poplar. DEATHS Registered by T. W. Gagen, Registrar.

(1) Where Born and (2) How long in this District.	(1) Parents' Names and (2) Rank or Profession.	If deceased was Married. Where, at what age, and by whom.	Issue, in order of Birth, their names and ages.	Signatures of (1) Informant, (2) Witness, and (3) Registrar, (4) Date of Registration.
County of Cork, Ireland. 36 years in Poplar.	Timothy Canty Shoemaker, dec. Mary Canty, m. n. Nicolas, dec.	Scrill parish, Ireland, at age 22, to Honora M'Carty.	1. Timothy, 31 2. William, 30 3. Mary, 29 4. John, dec. at 27, in 1846 5. Catherine, dec. at 1, in 1820 6. Stephen, 21	Honora Canty, her × mark, Widow, Informant. Mary Canty, daughter, Witness. T. W. Gagen, Registrar, March third, 1847

the Glasgow Mortality Bills, and who receive very small salaries for their respective labours. They offered to make out clean copies of the schedules, but I think it better to transmit them off hand in their original state."

"It will be observed that some of the lists are not so complete as could be wished. This arises from the informants not being aware that so much information was required of them. Were it known to the public that the various particulars stated in the schedules were required, I have no doubt but they could, without difficulty, be filled up with accuracy for Glasgow." "*From what I know of the subject, I have no doubt but they would be filled up with perfect accuracy, provided care is taken to appoint properly qualified persons as registrars.*"

Your Committee was further of opinion that, in the event of such Schedules being adopted, great advantage would result to the public, by issuing forms of certificates embodying the principal facts intended to be set forth in the Schedules themselves, and that they should be delivered, by the respective registrars, to the parties interested on the various occasions of Marriage, Birth, and Death. That these should be regarded as the "Original Certificates," and have appropriate counterparts, and that no other original certificates should ever be issued of any one of these events, but that any other documents of a similar kind which might be issued should only be a certified copy by the proper registrar.

(A.)

CERTIFICATE OF MARRIAGE.

DISTRICT, Marylebone. No. in Register, 11.
On March 3rd, 1847.
At Marylebone Parish Church.

MARRIAGE, *after Bans*, was solemnized between US, according to *the rites and ceremonies of the Established Church.*

SIGNATURE, *William Hastings.*

DESCRIPTION
- residence { present, usual, } 3, *South Street, Marylebone.* / *Chelmsford, Essex.*
- age, 32.
- rank or profession, *carpenter.*
- condition, *widower.*
- if widower { former wives, } first deceased in 1840, *4th Nov.* { children by, living 2, dead 1.
- birth-place, *Bristol.*
- parents' names and rank or profession, } *Peter Hastings, dec., upholsterer, and Ann Hastings,* M. N. *Payne, schoolmistress.*

SIGNATURE, Sophia Ann Mitchell.

DESCRIPTION
- residence { present, usual, } 17, *High Street.* / *Ditto.*
- age, 20.
- rank or profession, *dressmaker.*
- condition, *spinster.*
- if widow { former husband } first deceased in .... { children by living — dead —
- birth-place, *Longbridge, Deverell, Wilts.*
- parents' names and rank or possession, } *Geoffrey Mitchell, butcher, and Sarah Mitchell,* M. N. *Evans, dec.*

WITNESSES, *John Hastings—Jane Mitchell.*

OFFICIATING MINISTER, *James Hollingshead, Vicar.*

(B.)

CERTIFICATE OF BIRTH.

DISTRICT, St. Pancras. SUB-DISTRICT, Tottenham Court. No. in Register, 98.
CHILD, Name, and Sex, *William Aste*, (present,) born 5*h*. 30*m*., February 11th, 1847, *at* 169, *Tottenham Court Road.*

PARENTS—Father:
- name, *Henry Aste.*
- rank or profession, *corn dealer.*
- age, 40.
- born at *Tingewick, Bucks.*
- married first in 1830 *at St. Pancras.*
- issue, 4 boys, 4 girls living; 1 girl dec.

Mother:
- name, *Harriett Aste*, M. N. *Hills* (*her ninth child*).
- rank or profession,
- age, 37.
- born at *St. Pancras.*
- married first in (*see Father*).
- issue, *ditto.*

INFORMANTS AND THEIR SIGNATURE, *Henry Aste, father; Harriett Aste, mother.*
WITNESSES, *Euphemia Curry*, nurse, certified by *M. Clayton*, accoucheur.
REGISTERED, on March 10th, 1847, at 169, *Tottenham Court Road, by John Wells, Registrar.*

(C.)

CERTIFICATE OF DEATH.

DISTRICT, Poplar.—SUB-DISTRICT, Poplar. No. in Register, 1476.

NAME:
- *William Canty.*
- rank or profession, *dock labourer.*
- sex, *male.*
- age, 62.
- died on the 28*th of February*, 1847, 6½, A.M., *at* 16 *Cottage Row.*

CAUSE OF DEATH, *Pneumonia, two months*, as certified *by H. Bloomfield*, who last saw deceased *February* 27, 1847.
BURIAL PLACE, *Catholic burial-ground, Wade Street*, as certified *by M. Rutley, undertaker.*
BORN AT *county of Cork, Ireland;* lived in this district, 36 *years in Poplar*,
Parents' names and rank or profession, Father—*Timothy Canty, shoemaker, dec.*
Mother—*Mary Canty*, M. N., *Nicholas dec.*
MARRIED in the *parish of Scrill, Ireland, at the age of* 22, *to Honora M'Carty, by whom he had*
ISSUE, (1) *Timothy*, 31, (2) *William*, 30, (3) *Mary*, 29, (4) *John, dec. at* 27, *in* 1846, (5) *Catherine, dec. at* 1, *in* 1820, (6) *Stephen*, 21.
INFORMANT, *Honora Canty, her* ⋊ *mark, widow.*
WITNESS, *Mary Canty, daughter.*
REGISTERED on March 3rd, 1847, *by T. W. Gagen, Registrar.*

The Committee, after having given much attention to this subject, are convinced that the adoption of the proposed system of registration possesses scientific and legal merits beyond those of any other yet proposed in this country, and they regret that the framers of the Registration Bill for Scotland have not wholly concurred with them in their view of the question. As it is now understood, however, that the Bill will not pass during the present session of Parliament, and that the whole is likely to be further considered, it is to be hoped, from the willingness which the Lord Advocate evinced to introduce an efficient mode of registration, that reason will be found hereafter to carry out the system proposed by your Committee.

5th June, 1847.